

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed April 24, 2007. Through this response claims 20-25 and 37-46 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims 36 and 47 - 49 are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 36 and 47 - 49 are allowed. Applicants have canceled all other pending claims to place the application in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 20, 21, 23-25, 37-40, and 42-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Matthews, III* ("*Matthews*," U.S. Pat. No. 5,874,985) in view of *Hendricks, et al.* ("*Hendricks*," U.S. Pat. No. 5,659,350). Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Matthews* and *Hendricks* and further in view of *Jennings* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,781,186). Claims 41 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Matthews* and *Hendricks* and further in view of *Hashimoto et al.* ("*Hashimoto*," U.S. Pat. No. 5,931,905). Although Applicants respectfully disagree that claims 20-25 and 37-46 are unpatentable in view of the art of record, in the interest of expediting allowance of the claims, Applicants have canceled claims 20-25 and 37-46 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, hence rendering the rejections moot and placing the application in condition for allowance.

III. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 20-25 and 37-46 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' pending claims are in condition for allowance. Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and official notice, and similarly interpreted statements, should not be considered well known since the Office Action does not include specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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